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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/578,853

05/10/2006

Hermann Bruggendick

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02/16/2011

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EXAMINER

MILLER, SAMANTHA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3749

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/16/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,853	Applicant(s) BRUGGENDICK, HERMANN	
	Examiner SAMANTHA A. MILLER	Art Unit 3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Receipt of applicant's amendment filed 12/2/2010 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SMITH (2,812,254).

SMITH teaches:

20. Extending a downwardly open flue duct (106) into a vat (vat or tank formed by 40, 41, 42, and 43) so as, with the aid of a liquid (oil) that has collected in the vat, to form a liquid barrier that is adapted to close off a flue gas end of said flue duct relative to the environment; relieving the upstream exhaust gas cleaning system from the draft effect of the flue duct by lowering the level of the liquid in the vat below an edge of the flue duct to expose at least a portion of a cross-section of the flue duct (Fig.2).

21. The lowering of the level of the liquid in the vat is effected by lowering the vat together with the liquid (by lowering weirs, col.5 ll.1-41).

22. Using a trough as the vat, wherein the trough is associated with a lower edge of said flue draft, and wherein the trough outwardly delimits a discharge plate (90).

23. The liquid is adapted to flow over an outer wall of the trough in the manner of a weir (col.5 ll.1-41).

24. A plurality of overflow weirs are associated with various peripheral regions of said trough, and wherein the liquid in the trough is adapted to overflow outwardly via said overflow weirs and to drain the trough (col.5 ll.1-41).

25. Adjusting a depth of immersion of said flue duct into the trough by vertically positioning the trough (col.5 ll.1-41).

26. Includes re-establishing a chimney draft in the exhaust gas cleaning system by vertically delivering the trough and the discharge plate to the lower end of the flue duct to such an extent that the flue duct extends into the liquid of the trough to a predescribed depth (col.5 ll.1-41).

27. Includes adjusting the depth of immersion by varying the vertical feed of the trough (col.5 ll.1-41).

28. Includes applying this method with an open exhaust gas cleaning system (col.5 ll.1-41).

Regarding claims 29-35 and 37; refer to the rejection of claims 20-28.

36. A plurality of overflow weirs having a uniform height are distributed over a periphery of said trough (Fig.2) (col.5 ll.1-41).

38. Openings for chimney draft air are provided in said flue duct, and wherein said openings are adapted to be closed off via air supply shutters or louvers and/or by sliding doors (66).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/2/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that SMITH does not teach reducing a draft effect upstream exhaust gas cleaning system. However, claims are afforded the broadest reasonable interpretation. In this case, flue (106) is capable of being attached to an exhaust gas cleaning system, the draft is change by the oil level in the vat of oil. The more oil that is present the more fumes are being exhaust and the larger the draft, as the oil level is dropped the draft is dropped.

Applicant contends that SMITH does not teach extending a downwardly open flue duct into a vat to form a liquid barrier. However, claims are afforded the broadest reasonable interpretation. In this case, extending a downwardly open flue duct (106) into a vat (vat or tank formed by 40, 41, 42, and 43) so as (col.6 ll.61-66, discusses the flue duct can expand all or a portion of the tank/vat), with the aid of a liquid (oil) that has collected in the vat, to form a liquid barrier (the barrier of oil) that is adapted to close off a flue gas end (the oil blocks air from going to the bottom of vat at 40) of said flue duct relative to the environment.

Applicant contends that SMITH does not teach lowering the level of the liquid in the vat below an edge of the flue duct to expose at least a portion of a cross-section of the flue duct. However, claims are afforded the broadest reasonable interpretation. However, claims are afforded the broadest reasonable interpretation. In this case, lowering the level of the liquid (55) in the vat (40) below an edge of the flue duct (106 at

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105) to expose at least a portion of a cross-section of the flue duct by further exposing the flue duct (106) which is still exposing the flue as the liquid is lowered as described (col.5 ll.32-49)

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMANTHA A. MILLER whose telephone number is (571)272-9967. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve McAllister can be reached on 571-272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Samantha A Miller/
Examiner, Art Unit 3749

2/12/2011

/Steven B. McAllister/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3749